

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00378 161840Z

73

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 MC-01 RSC-01 /035 W
----- 055630

R 161755Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4065
INFO DOD WASHDC
CINCSOUTH
USNAVSO
DIA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
COMNAVINTCOM WASHDC
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0378

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, EC
SUBJECT: ATTITUDE OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY CNO TOWARD US

REF: 1) USDAO QUITO 152130 JAN 75
2) USDAO QUITO 241625 DEC 74

1. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO A DAO REPORT "ATTITUDE OF ECUADOREAN NAVY CNO", BEING SENT SEPARATELY, INFO COPY TO STATE. REPORT IS BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN NAVATT, CHIEF OF USMLO, AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS, WITH ADMIRAL VASQUEZ, COMMANDER OF ECUADOREAN NAVY.

2. VASQUEZ, A MERCURIAL PERSONALITY WITH A TENDENCY TOWARD THE CHURLISH IN EVEN THE BEST OF TIMES, HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY OBSTREPEROUS TOWARDS THE US IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. AS NAVATT POINTS OUT, HE HAS HIS UPS AND DOWNS, AND HE'S CURRENTLY IN ONE OF THE LATTER. PERHAPS IT'S BEEN THE STRAIN OVER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 00378 161840Z

RECENT IN-FIGHTING AMONG THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY, OR

THE FACT THAT THE NAVY JUST LOST THE PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNORSHIP OF GUAYAS/GUAYAQUIL PROVINCE (QUITO 8397), OR FEARS THAT HE MIGHT BE RETIRED, OR THOUGHTS THAT HE MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE AT THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE "JOINT CHIEFS" (QUITO 0284). AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO HIS REACTION IS THE FACT THAT WE, FOR REASONS NOT OF OUR OWN MAKING, HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE FIRST DESTROYER THEY MAY GET, AND HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY FORTHCOMING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND DESTROYER LATER. AT ONE POINT (ON DECEMBER 23RD) VASQUEZ FLATLY ACCUSED NAVATT OF KNOWING THE IDENTITY OF THE FIRST DD, AND REFUSING TO TELL VASQUEZ, WITHHOLDING THE INFORMATION UNTIL VASQUEZ" REPLACEMENT WAS NAMED. ON 13 JANUARY, VASQUEZ TOLD CHIEF/USMLO THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO TRAINING, PURCHASE OF REPAIR PARTS, COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE, ETC, UNTIL AND UNLESS A DD IS NAMED FOR TRANSFER TO ECUADOR". VASQUEZ PERSONALLY CALLED OFF THE VISIT TO THE US OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVAL ACADEMY THE DAY BEFORE THE LATTER WAS DUE TO LEAVE GUAYAQUIL FOR MIAMI ON AN IV GRANT, AND HAS SAID THAT IF THE US CONGRESS WON'T AUTHORIZE GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR ECUADOR, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE IT WILL AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF A DESTROYER.

3. WE BELIEVE NAVATT'S ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IS ACCURATE, AND THAT THIS IS MAINLY THE RESULT OF ONE OF VASQUEZ' TEMPER TANTRUMS. HE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRESS FOR THE REASONS ENUMERATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. IN ADDITION, HE SITS ON TOP OF THE ECUADOREAN SERVICE THAT MOST WANTS TO REHABILITATE THE SAD SHAPE IT'S IN, AND IS USING PRESSURE TACTICS TO GET THE HELP HE NEEDS FROM US. THE NAVY IS, IN A SENSE, THE MOST RADICALIZED OF THE ECUADOREAN SERVICES, BOTH BECAUSE YOUNGER OFFICERS ARE UNHAPPY AT THE SHAPE IT'S IN, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THE NAVY NOMINALLY OVERSEES ECUADOR'S NATURAL RESOURCES -- SOURCE OF MOST OF THE RECENT CONFLICT WITH US: 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT, OIL IN GENERAL; ADA IN PARTICULAR; PERMISSION FOR WEALTHY AMERICANS TO CRUISE TO THE GALAPAGOS ON THEIR OWN YACHTS; THE "STELLA MARIS" FIASCO (QUITO 0230), ETC. EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 00378 161840Z

DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT VASQUEZ' ORNERINESS REFLECTS OFFICIAL GOE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US (AT LEAST NOT YET), AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOST PRODUCTIVE ATTITUDE WE CAN ADOPT AT THIS POINT IS "THIS TOO SHALL PASS," ESPECIALLY IF WE ARE SOON IN A POSITION TO NAME THE FIRST DD. HEMENWAY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, REPORTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO00378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-1045
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750146/aaaabokd.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 USDAO QUITO 152130, 75 JAN 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTITUDE OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY CNO TOWARD US
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, EC, (NAVATT), (VASQUEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006